development and maintenance of all the tourist places in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of amount actually utilised so far on the development of tourist places in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) During Eighth Five Year Plan, Central financial assistance of Rs. 439.84 lakhs was sanctioned to Assam for tourism development of the State.

(b) and (c) The development of tourism is mainly undertaken by the State Governments. However, to supplement their efforts. Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to them for the projects/schemes prioritised every year in consuhation with them. Sanctioned projects/schemes are implemented by the respective State Governments. During the first two years of Ninth Plan, an amount of Rs. 564.15 lakhs has been spent by the State Government for development of tourism.

Impact of lA Hijack on Tourist Arrival

†586. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an adverse effect on the inflow of foreign tourists to India due to hijacking of Indian aircraft by Pakistan terrorists from Nepal; if so, to what extent; and

(b) the action being taken for creating a sense of security among tourists after this incident?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The tourist inflow in December 1999 and January 2000 in the wake of the hijacking is indicated in the enclosed statement. *{See* below).

(b) According to information from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, some of the actions taken are:

(i) Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel in place of the State Police for security duties.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) Frisking of passengers and hand baggage at the time of entry into sterile area tightened.

(iii) Strict control on access to the airports is being ensured by comprehensive review of photo identity cards and banning of entry of the visitors up to 28.2.2000.

(iv) Deployment of sky marshals on some identified routes of Indian Airlines and Air India.

(v) Raising of the perimeter wall to the prescribed height at all the operational airports.

(vi) Modernisation and upgradation of security related technological set up is being done.

Statement

Date-wise Foreign Tourist Arrivals from Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai for the Month of December, 1999

	Arrivals			Difference	
Date	1997	1998	1999	1998/97	1999/98
25	6217	6744	5776	527	-968
26	5712	6137	6432	425	295
27	6718	8021	5534	1303	-2487
28	6751	6514	5842	-237	-672
29	5884	6082	5201	198	-881
30	4788	5311	4598	523	-713
31	5647	5369	3818	-278	-1551
TOTAL	41717	44178	37201	2461	-6977

Date-wise Foreign Tourist Arrivals from Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai for the month of January, 2000

	Arrivals			Difference	
Date	1998	1999	2000	1999/98	2000/99
1	4003	5101	2980	1098	-2121
2	5493	5877	4530	384	-1347
3	6352	6528	5083	176	-1445
4	6618	6082	4793	-536	-1289
5	5779	6170	5014	391	-1156
6	5686	7166	6014	1480	-1152
7	5213	5582	5539	369	-43
8	5150	6048	5409	898	-639
9	5927	6452	6625	525	173
10	5849	7638	7573	1789	-65
11	5751	5651	5299	-100	-352
12	6410	5335	6801	-1075	1466
13	4984	6090	6599	1106	509
14	7277	5412	5513	-1865	101
15	5430	6270	6261	840	-9
16	5943	5362	7693	-581	2331
17	7509	7245	7355	-264	110
18	7138	5622	5879	-1516	257
19	6822	6180	6853	-642	673
20	5805	7000	7207	1195	207
21	6633	5994	5969	-639	-25
22	6129	5335	6023	-794	688
23	5768	6687	8129	919	1442
24	6500	7356	6179	856	1177
25	7092	6609	5746	-483	-863
26	6273	6072	7036	-201	964
27	5804	6021	5071	217	-950
28	6467	5842	6929	-625	1087

Date	1998	1999	2000	1999/98	2000/99
29	5493	5514	6770	21	1256
30	6258	5434	7266	-824	1832
3K	6577	7891	7258	1314	-633
TOTAL	188133	191566	191396	3433	-170

Development of Tourism

587. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism earned Rs. 10,417 crores in foreign exchange during 1996-97 and gave direct employment to about 8.5 million accounting for 2.4 per cent of the labour force;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this industry has immense potential for growth; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking to encourage this industry to grow?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 1996-97 were Rs. 10231.80 crorcs. It is estimated that direct employment in the tourism sector during 1996-97 was about 12.78 million accounting for about 3.3 per cent of the total labour force.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Various steps Government is taking to encourage the tourism industry includes:

(i) Encouraging private investment in the tourism sector including hotels by providing various incentives like tax exemption, interest subsidy, concessional custom duty on import, etc.

(ii) Providing Central financial assistance to tourism projects received from State Governments.